

ORION

CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE

WEEKLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



9.11.09



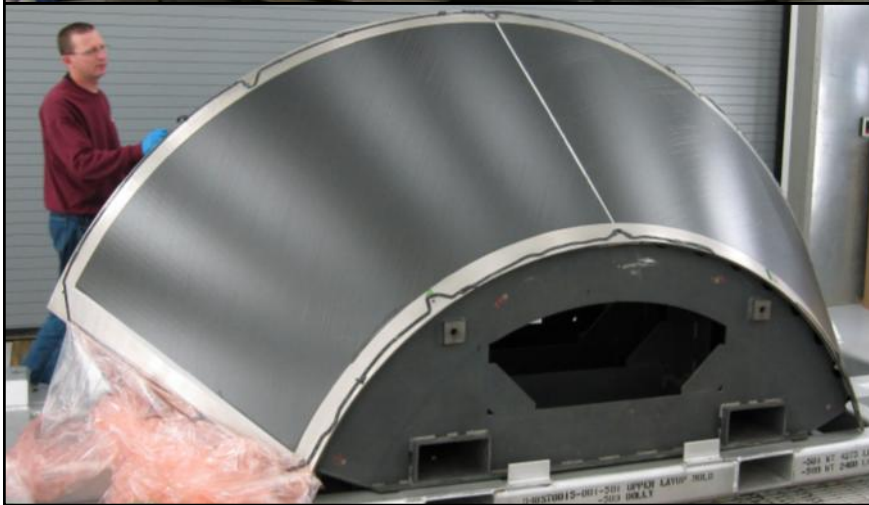
The Crew Module (CM) pathfinder and Separation Ring (SR) stacking was completed and placed on the launch pad (shown above) at White Sands Missile Range launch complex as part of the Pad Abort-1 (PA-1) preparations. The next step will be to add the Launch Abort System (LAS) Pathfinder to the stack. In addition, the PA-1 Crew Module successfully completed its first post-shipment power-on functional test.



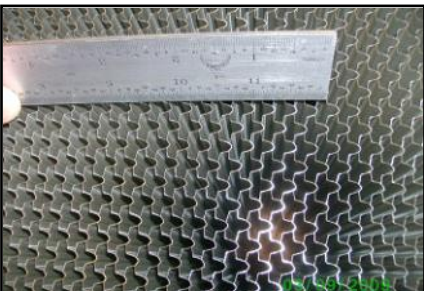
Ground Test Article (GTA) welding continues at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana. Workers recently completed the Crew Module (CM) aft ring to aft bulkhead circumferential weld in just under an hour. (Top Photo Page 2).



(Above) Ground Test Article (GTA) Crew Module (CM) Aft Ring to Aft Bulkhead Circumferential Weld.



Shown above is the **Ground Test Article (GTA) Thermal Protection System (TPS) backshell layup in process at Lockheed Martin's Denver Composite Shop**. The cutting edge material being developed for Orion, will be capable of withstanding temperatures of over 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The backshell layup process will continue at the Denver facility until it is delivered to the Michoud Assembly Facility in March, 2010.



Bids were received on the passive attenuation developmental testing crush core material from suppliers of hexagonal core honeycomb sheets specified in the present Orion crush core design (Photos left). Bids are in review and a selection is expected soon.

